Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/758,934	PHARO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yaritza Guadalupe McCall	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment After Final filed 9/11/06 and telephonic conversation with Mr.Schaap on 10/3/06*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *38-56*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the Amendment After Final filed September 11, 2006

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Schaap on October 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 38 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

38. A self contained and complete personnel guidance and location control system for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof and controlling movement thereof, said guidance and location control system comprising:

a) at least one ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;

b) at least one end of line element associated with an endmost of said cover substrates in a fixed location thereon, said at least one end of the line element comprising wait state indicia, said wait state indicia defining the fixed location as an end of a line for a queue of pedestrian individuals;

c) a pair of spaced apart path forming members associated with each of said ground cover substrates in a fixed location thereon relative to the end of line element, said path forming members defining pathway boundaries at the sides thereof and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element to define a pathway of movement for the group of pedestrian individuals;

d) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the spaced apart pathway boundaries to depict the direction of movement in that pathway so that the individuals move to the end of the line position;

e) said at least one substrate having a width, wherein said width of the substrate or a width between said pathway boundaries or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals; and

f) means associated with said end of line element and small discrete path forming members for locating same with the cover substrates, where the end of the line element and the pair of spaced apart path forming members, and the movement indicator element for the guidance and location control system are incorporated on at least one or more of said ground cover substrates; and

g) wherein said at least one ground cover substrate having said at least one end of line element, said pair of spaced apart path forming members, said widths and said at least one movement indicator element form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals along said at least one substrate to said at least one end of line element having said wait state indicia.

Claim 43 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

43. A system for controlling movement and standing locations for a group of pedestrian individuals in an orderly fashion and presenting informational messages in connection therewith, said system comprising:

a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;

b) at least one end of line element associated with said cover substrate and in a fixed location thereon for defining an end of a line of the

group of pedestrian individuals and representing a waiting location for the individual at the front end of the line;

c) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element defining the fixed location of the end of the line element as a location for a queue of said pedestrian individuals;

d) a plurality of small discrete path forming elements associated with said ground cover substrate in a fixed location thereon and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element to define a pathway of movement for the group of pedestrian individuals and pathway boundaries at the sides thereof;

e) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway of movement between the spaced apart pathway boundaries to indicate a direction of movement in the pathway to the end of the line position, said at least one movement indicator element thereby cooperating with the path forming members to indicate the pathway and the direction of movement to the end of the line position;

f) said a ground cover substrate having a width, wherein said width of the substrate or a width of said pathway boundaries or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals;

g) whereby said ground cover substrate having said at least one end of the line element, said pathway boundaries, said width, and said at least one movement indicator element cooperate to form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals along said at least one substrate to said at least one elongate element having said wait state indicia;

h) a first informational message and a second informational message and at least one of said first and second informational messages having information related to the purpose of the pedestrian individuals being controlled in movement, said first informational message being located at said substrate and which is substitutable so that said second informational message may be readily and quickly substituted at said substrate for said first informational message so that only said second message is visibly presented; and

i) said substrate comprising at least a first layer of a relatively rigid material, which has a generally transparent portion allowing a pedestrian individual in a standing position to readily observe said informational message; said first layer providing sufficient weight to the substrate so that edges do not curl when disposed on a ground substrate.

Claim 48 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

48. The system of Claim 43 further characterized in that said substrate comprises a second layer and which are secured to one another to form the substrate; and first layer is comprised of a polycarbonate material and said second layer is comprised of an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene co-polymer and where said first layer has a thickness of no greater than one-fourth inch and said second layer has a thickness of no greater than one-fourth inch.

Claim 49 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

49. A method of controlling and guiding the movement of a group of pedestrian individuals on a ground cover substrate and forming such pedestrian individuals in a line of such individuals to an end of a line position and to a destination in advance of the end of the line position and simultaneously providing an informational message to said one or more pedestrian individuals, said method comprising:

a) applying a ground cover substrate to a ground surface and having an upper surface on said substrate for walking disposition by said one or more pedestrian individuals;

b) providing an end of the line or waiting position defining element on said upper surface of said substrate in a fixed position thereon and which defines an end of a line position of the group of walking pedestrian individuals or and representing a waiting location for the individual at the front end of the line;

c) providing a pathway of movement for the group of individuals by applying to said substrate a plurality of spaced apart path forming members associated with said cover substrate in a fixed location thereon which extend in parallel lines from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element which are in close proximity to opposite longitudinal edges of said ground cover substrate to form said pathway of movement;

d) providing wait state indicia associated with the end of the line or waiting position defining;

e) providing at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the parallel lines to present a desired direction of movement to the end of the line position or to the end of the line or waiting position defining element fixed position;

f) a width of the substrate or a width of said pair of spaced apart pathway boundaries or a combination thereof being established to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals; and

g) allowing each of the individuals who reach the front end of the line to wait their turn at the end of the line or waiting position defining element until they are ready to be received at the destination.

Claim 50 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

50. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 38 further characterized in that an upper surface of said substrate is relatively free of elements which would obstruct the prominence of the end of the line element and the lines of path forming elements and the at least one movement indicator element so that the pathway is not visually obstructed.

Claim 52 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

52. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 49 further characterized in that said path forming members are each comprised of a plurality of spaced apart small discrete path forming elements.

Claim 53 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

53. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 38 further characterized in that the at least one movement indicator element comprises a plurality of movement indicator elements and have a representation of a footprint to cause the pedestrian individuals to enter into and follow the pathway.

Claim 54 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

54. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 53 further characterized in that the movement indicator elements are footprints.

Claim 55 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

55. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 43 further characterized in that said substrate comprises a first layer being the end of the line or unity position and the path forming members and wait state indicator and at least one movement indicator element, and a second layer of a relatively flexible material secured to said first layer and which aids in allowing the substrate to be rolled and also to be treated as a rigid mat.

Claim 56 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

56. A self contained and complete personnel guidance and location control system for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof and controlling movement thereof, said guidance and location control system comprising:

a) at least one ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;

b) said ground cover substrate being comprised of:

1) a first layer comprising a relatively rigid and generally transparent polycarbonate material, said substrate being of sufficient weight and thickness that the edges of the substrate do not curl when laid on a ground surface;

2) a relatively flexible second layer comprised of a styrene based copolymer material and being secured to said first layer, said second layer providing those properties which allow the substrate to be rolled and which also provide some degree of rigidity to the substrate; and

3) a bonding layer between said first and second layers to cause a bonding of the two to allow the substrate to be rolled or laid as a mat;

c) at least one end of line element associated with an endmost of said cover substrates and in a fixed location thereon for defining an end of a line of the group of walking pedestrian individuals and representing a waiting location for the individual at the front end of the line so that the individuals may proceed to a destination in advance of the front end of the line in an orderly and successive manner;

d) a pair of spaced apart path forming members associated with each of said ground cover substrates in a fixed location thereon relative to the end of line element, said path forming members defining pathway boundaries at the sides thereof and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element to define a pathway of movement for the group of pedestrian

individuals and which pathway is sized with a width arranged to cause individuals to enter and proceed in said pathway and form a line of such individuals;

e) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element defining the fixed location of the end of the line element as a location for a queue of said pedestrian individuals;

f) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the spaced apart pathway boundaries and being presented to depict a direction of movement in that pathway so that the individuals move to the end of the line position; and

g) whereby the ground cover substrate and end of line element and spaced apart path forming members and said width of such pathway of movement form a means for queuing said pedestrian individuals into a line of walking pedestrian individuals along said pathway of movement on said substrate to said end of the line element.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. Claims 38 – 42, 50 – 51, and 53 - 54 are allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest a personnel guidance and location control system comprising: a) at least one ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface and having an upper surface thereon; b) at least one end of the line element; c) a pair of spaced apart path forming members; d) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the spaced apart pathway boundaries to depict the direction of movement in that pathway so that the individuals move to the end of the line position; e) said substrate having a width; f) whereby the ground substrate having said at least one end of line element, said pair of discrete path forming guidance members, said width and said at least one movement indicator element form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals for movement to said at least said end of the line element having said wait state indicia; in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

b. Claims 43 – 48 and 55 are allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest a personnel guidance and location control system comprising: a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface and having an upper surface thereon; b) at least one end of the line element; c) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element defining the fixed location of the end of the line element as a location for a queue of said pedestrian individuals; d) a plurality of small discrete path forming elements; e) at least one movement indicator element; f) said substrate ground cover substrate having a width; h) whereby the ground cover substrate having said at least

one end of line element, said pathway boundaries, said width and said at least one movement indicator element form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals for movement to said at least said end of the line element having said wait state indicia in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

c. Claims 49 and 52 are allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest a method for controlling and guiding the movement of a group of walking pedestrian individuals on a ground cover substrate and forming such pedestrian individuals in a line of such individuals to an end of a line position and to a destination in advance of the end of the line position and simultaneously providing an informational message to said one or more pedestrian individuals, said method comprising: a) applying a ground cover substrate; b) providing an end of the line or waiting position defining element on said upper surface of said substrate; c) providing wait state indicia associated with the end of the line; d) providing at least one movement indicator element on said pathway of movement between the spaced apart pathway side margins; f) establishing a width of said substrate; and g) allowing each of the individuals who reach the front end of the line to wait their turn at the end of the line or waiting position defining element until they are ready to be received at the destination in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

d. Claim 56 is allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest a self contained and complete personnel guidance and location control system comprising: a) at least one ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface; b) at least one end of the line element; c) a pair of spaced apart path forming members; d) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the spaced apart pathway boundaries to depict the direction of movement in that pathway so that the individuals move to the end of the line position; e) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element; and f) whereby the ground substrate and end of line element and spaced apart path forming members and said width of such pathway of movement form a means for queuing said pedestrian individuals into a line of walking pedestrian individuals along said pathway of movement on said substrate to said end of the line element in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

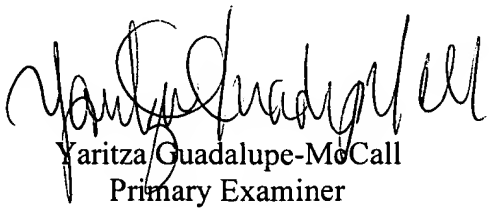
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaritza Guadalupe-McCall whose telephone number is (571)272 -2244. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yaritza Guadalupe-McCall
Primary Examiner

YGM
October 27, 2006
Art Unit 2859